

Message Text

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71

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SCEM-02 SCI-06 INT-08

SS-20 NSC-10 TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /102 W

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R 111932Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5941

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 98

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN ENRG TD

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: SPECIAL FUEL TREATMENT FOR BWIA

REF: STATE 005348; POS 004; POS 1668

1. ON BASIS REFTTEL, I DISCUSSED AVIATION FUEL SITUATION WITH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE MAHABIR (WHO IS IN CHARGE OF REGULATING PROVISION OF FUEL AT AIRPORT). FROM HIS REACTION, IT IS CLEAR THAT AMBASSADOR MCINTYRE WILDLY EXCEEDED HIS INSTRUCTIONS (OR ELSE SERIOUSLY MISUNDERSTOOD THEM) IF HE IMPLIED TO DEPT THAT US CARRIERS FLYING "TO AND THROUGH" THE CARIBBEAN WOULD BE WELCOME TO REFUEL AT PIARCO IN EXCHANGE FOR BWIA RECEIVING FULL FUEL NEEDS IN THE US BY GOTT-TEXACO ARRANGEMENTS. SUCH AN OFFER WOULD BE A COMPLETE CONTRADICTION OF PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' STRONGLY HELD VIEWS THAT FOREIGN-OWNED CARRIERS ARE UNDULY EXPLOITING FUEL AVAILABILITY IN TRINIDAD, AS EMPHASIZED IN HIS DECEMBER 20 SPEECH (POS 1663; POS A-123, DEC 21, 1973) AND THE NEWLY-IMPLEMENTED AVIATION FUEL REGULATIONS (POS 1668, POS A-01, JAN 4, 1974). SINCE THESE REGULATIONS WERE ISSUED, SCHEDULED CARRIERS HAVE RECEIVED NEEDED FUEL FOR ALL REGULAR FLIGHTS (INCLUDING EXTRA SECTIONS), BUT A FEW CHARTERS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED, AND VIASA AND CUBANA ORDERED TO TERMINATE THEIR TRAINING FLIGHTS THROUGH PIARCO.

2. MINISTER MAHABIR GAVE ME A LENGTHY DESCRIPTION OF WILLIAMS'

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CONVICTION THAT BWIA IS ENTITLED TO AVIATION FUEL EXPORTED BY

TRINIDAD AS A RIGHT AND NOT SUBJECT TO ANY "DEALS," AND I SUSPECT THAT MAHABIR WILL PLAY DOWN ELEMENT OF "DEAL" INHERENT IN WORDING OF PARA 6 STATE 005348 WHEN TALKING WITH PRIME MINISTER. NEVERTHELESS, MINISTER DOES UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION AND FORESEES NO PROBLEMS FOR FUEL FOR US CARRIERS' SCHEDULED FLIGHTS.

3. SINCE BOTH BWIA AND US CARRIERS APPEAR HAPPY WITH SITUATION, I SUGGEST WE LEAVE MATTER AS IT STANDS.

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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